

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 6-16 are pending. Claims 6 and 10 are amended, support for non-cosmetic changes is found at least at Figure 3 and the corresponding written description in the specification. No new matter is added.

The outstanding Official Action rejected Claims 6-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph; rejected Claims 6, 7, 11, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,751,453 to Schemers et al. (hereinafter “Schemers”); rejected Claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schemers in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,199,062 to Von Meister et al. (hereinafter “Von Meister”); rejected Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schemers in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,003,577 to Ertz et al. (hereinafter “Ertz”); rejected Claims 10, 14, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schemers in view of the internet publication “Google groups” of April 18-19, 1999 (hereinafter “Google groups”); rejected Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schemers in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,501,832 to Saylor et al. (hereinafter “Saylor”) and rejected Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Schemers and Google groups, and further in view of Saylor.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

In the Official Action, claims 6-16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

At page 2 of the Official Action it is noted that:

...The claims contain subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art

to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Based upon arguments presented by applicant's representative it appears the disclosed feature of the invention are not commonly well-known and applicant is using non-conventional systems, therefore it would appear that present specification lacks sufficient detail to allow one skill in the art to implement the present invention without undue experimentation.

The above reasoning amounts to nothing more than an omnibus rejection of the claims. Specifically, the Office has not identified any specific claim language, or identified a suitable reference to page and line numbers and/or drawing figures of the alleged non-enabling claim language relative to the subject matter described in the application. As such, the Applicants are forced to play a guessing game as to specific language of the claims, thus, all language added in the last amendment is identified below with reference to supporting description in the specification.

The terminology "enterprise" corresponds to the previously deleted language "office - based terminal." One of skill in the art would immediately recognize that this terminology is interchangeable, "enterprise" being the more accepted terminology in the art.

The terminology "to an author of the received email" Finds support in the specification at least at page 5, lines 15-18.

The terminology "requesting a recording of a voice message from the user of the portable electronic device as a reply to the email message" finds support in the specification at least on page 7, lines 15-17.

Therefore, Applicants submit that Claims 6-16 have proper written description support under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. Moreover, if a further rejection is applied under this statute, Applicants respectfully request a more detailed analysis to prevent further miscommunication.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 6-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Claim 6 is directed to a method for enabling a portable electronic device to communicate with a terminal. The method includes, *inter alia*, receiving a call in an email server from the portable electronic device. The method further includes obtaining, at the email server, a pre-assigned message identifier from the portable electronic device, the message identifier assigned to an email message received by the portable electronic device from the email server, the identifier corresponding to an author of the received email. The method also includes requesting a recording of the voice message from the user of the portable electronic device as a reply to the email message, and recording the voice message at the email server.

Turning now to the applied references, Figure 1 of Schemers illustrates a messaging system 100. Messaging system 100 includes a mobile device 140 connected to a gateway server 150 and a gateway switch 138 via a cellular network 145. Figure 1 of Schemers further illustrates a web server 105 connected to the gateway server 150 via an internet network 135, while a telephony server 115 is connected to a gateway switch 148 via a public switch telephone network (PSTN) 120.

Schemers described that the web server 105 provides email service to a user of the mobile device 140.¹ Schemers further describes that upon receiving an email message, a user of the mobile station can respond to the email by voice. Particularly, Schemers describes that upon selecting an object indicating that the user desires to respond to an email by voice, the mobile station 140 disconnects from the web server 105 and connects to the telephony server

¹ See Schemers at column 3, line 67 to column 4, line 5.

115 to establish a telephone connection. After establishing a connection with the telephony server 115, the user records a voice message at the telephony server 115, which is subsequently retrieved by the web server 105.²

Claim 1 is distinguishable over Schemers as the applied reference fails to disclose or suggest *obtaining, at the email server, a pre-assigned message identifier, the message identifier assigned to an email message received by the portable electronic device from the email server*. As discussed above, when the user of the mobile device 140 of Schemers decides to respond to an email by a voice message, the mobile station 140 connects to the telephone server 115. However, Schemers fails to disclose or suggest that telephone server 115 sends an email message to the mobile device 140.

That is, as recited in Claim 6, the server that receives a call is the same server that sends the email message. Accordingly, since the web server 105 and telephony server 115 in Schemers send an email and receive a call, respectively, the messaging system 100 of Schemers fails to disclose or suggest all the steps performed at Applicants' recited email server.

Claim 6 is further distinguishable over Schemers as the applied reference fails to disclose or suggest *recording the voice message at the email server*. Particularly, the email server that sends an email message to the portable electronic device is the same email server that records the voice message. As discussed above, Schemers merely describes that while the web server 105 sends an email to the mobile device 140, the telephony server 115 records the voice message, which is subsequently retrieved by the web server 105.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that Schemers fails to disclose or suggest all the features of Claim 6. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 6, and claims depending therefrom, under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

² See Schemers at column 6, line 30 to column 7, line 14, and Figures 6 and 7.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections of Claims 8-10, 12, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

As discussed above, Schemers fails to disclose or suggest all the features of Claim 6. Additionally, as Claim 10 recites features analogous to Claim 6, Applicants submit that Schemers fails to disclose or suggest all the features of Claim 10. Applicants have considered Von Meister, Ertz, Google groups, and Saylor, and submit that these applied references fail to cure the deficiencies of Schemers.

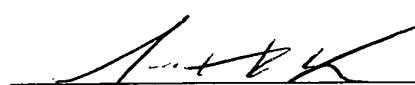
Accordingly, Applicants submit that a prima facie case of obviousness has not been presented. Thus, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 8-10, 12, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present response and amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance for the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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